

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for associating computer network identifications interfaces with network policies, said method comprising the steps of:

analyzing [[a]] one or more network interfaces interface associated with a client computer using a plurality of network detectors, including a first detector and a second detector, the detectors outputting a set of a plurality of netspecs, each that each output a netspec comprising a first token identifying a detector used for the analysis that is a detector token having a static value that identifies a specific detector that created the netspec and a second token identifying the analyzed network interface that is a value that the specific detector uses to uniquely identify the analyzed network interface;

determining that a first detector outputted a first netspec for a particular analyzed network interface of the one or more network interfaces and that a second detector outputted a second netspec for the particular analyzed network interface;

determining that the first detector that outputs a first netspec of the set of netspecs is more reliable in observing the particular analyzed network interface interfaces than is the second detector that outputs a second netspec of the set of netspecs;

awarding a higher priority to the first netspec than to the second netspec in response to the first netspec being output by the first detector and the first detector being more reliable than the second detector;

associating the network identifications made by the first netspec that was awarded the higher priority and second netspecs of the set of netspecs with a location that is linked to one or more network policies designated by a user to be implemented for the location locations based at least in part on the priority order of the first and second netspecs; and

feeding the associated netspec/location pair network identification/location pairs to a network interface module to implement the one or more network policies designated for the location desired network policies.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the network interface module is a module from the group of modules consisting of a firewall, a router, a sniffer, an intrusion detection module, a behavior blocking module, and a network communications module.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the network interface module is a firewall, and a user of the client computer adjusts firewall settings to set network policies based upon location.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of associating the first netspec with a location ~~the network identifications with locations~~ comprises using a network probe to look up locations in a netspec database.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising receiving modifications to the netspec database by a user of the client computer via a location setting module containing a user interface by which the user[[s]] assigns a location to each of the one or more netspecs or changes an existing location associated with each of the netspecs.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of feeding the associated ~~network identification~~ netspec/location pairs ~~pair~~ to [[a]] the network interface module comprises using a policy guide to feed the ~~network identification~~ netspec/location pairs ~~pair~~ to the network interface module on a real-time basis.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for associating computer network ~~identifications~~ interfaces with network policies, said apparatus comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium storing executable software means comprising:

means for analyzing [[a]] one or more network interfaces ~~interface~~ associated with a client computer using a plurality of network detectors; ~~including a first detector and a second detector, the detectors outputting a set of a plurality of netspecs, each that each output a netspec comprising a first token identifying a detector used for the analysis that is a detector token having a static value that identifies a specific detector that created the netspec and a second token identifying the analyzed network interface that is a value that the specific detector uses to uniquely identify the analyzed network interface;~~

coupled to the analyzing means, means determining that a first detector outputted a first netspec for a particular analyzed network interface of the one or more network interfaces and that a second detector outputted a second netspec for the particular analyzed network interface;

~~coupled to the analyzing means, means for determining that the first detector that outputs a first netspec of the set of netspecs is more reliable in observing the particular analyzed network interface interfaces than is the second detector that outputs a second netspec of the set of netspecs;~~

~~coupled to the determining means, means for awarding a higher priority to the first netspec than to the second netspec in response to the first netspec being output by the first detector and the first detector being more reliable than the second detector;~~

~~coupled to the awarding means, means for associating the network identifications made by the first netspec that was awarded the higher priority and second netspecs of the set of netspecs with a location that is linked to one or more network policies designated by a user to be implemented for the location locations based at least in part on the priority order of the first and second netspecs;~~

~~coupled to the associating means, means for feeding the associated netspec/location pair network identification/location pairs to a network interface module to implement the one or more network policies designated for the location desired network policies; and~~

a processor configured to execute the software means stored by the computer-readable storage medium.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the network interface module is a module from the group of modules consisting of a firewall, a router, a sniffer, an intrusion detection module, a behavior blocking module, and a network communications module.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the network interface module is a firewall, and the network policies are implemented on a packet-by-packet basis.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein locations are correlated with firewall settings on a distributed basis within the firewall.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the associating means further comprises:

a netspec database associating ~~the~~ netspecs with ~~the~~ locations.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising, coupled to the netspec database, a location setting module adapted to enable a user of the client computer to associate the locations with the netspecs.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the feeding means comprises:

a policy guide for associating ~~the network identifications~~ netspecs with ~~the~~ locations; wherein

the network interface module implements the network policies based upon the locations fed to the network interface module by the policy guide.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising, coupled to the network interface module, a user interface adapted to enable a user of the client computer to associate ~~the~~ locations with ~~the~~ network policies.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) At least one computer-readable medium containing computer program instructions for associating computer network ~~identifications~~ interfaces with network policies, said computer program instructions performing the steps of:

analyzing ~~[[a]]~~ one or more network interfaces ~~interface~~ associated with a client computer using a plurality of network detectors, ~~including a first detector and a second detector, the detectors outputting a set of a plurality of netspecs, each that each output~~ a netspec comprising a first token identifying a detector used for the analysis that is a detector token having a static value that identifies a specific detector that created the netspec and a second token identifying the analyzed network interface that is a value that the specific detector uses to uniquely identify the analyzed network interface;

determining that a first detector outputted a first netspec for a particular analyzed network interface of the one or more network interfaces and that a second detector outputted a second netspec for the particular analyzed network interface;

determining that the first detector ~~that outputs a first netspec of the set of netspecs~~ is more reliable in observing the particular analyzed network interface ~~interfaces~~ than is the second detector ~~that outputs a second netspec of the set of netspecs~~;

awarding a higher priority to the first netspec than to the second netspec in response to the first netspec being output by the first detector and the first detector being more reliable than the second detector;

associating ~~the network identifications made by the first~~ the first netspec that was awarded the higher priority ~~and second netspecs of the set of netspecs~~ with a location that is linked to one or more network policies designated by a user to be implemented for the location ~~locations based at least in part on the priority order of the first and second netspecs~~; and

feeding the associated netspec/location pair ~~network identification/location pairs~~ to a network interface module to implement the one or more network policies designated for the location ~~desired network policies~~.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the client computer has a plurality of network interfaces and further comprising:

analyzing each of the plurality of network interfaces using the plurality of network detectors; and

analyzing the netspecs for the plurality of network interfaces output by the plurality of network detectors to identify a set of unique network interfaces; wherein interfaces in the set of unique network interfaces are associated with locations responsive to the priority order.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a user interface which allows a user of the client computer to set or change ~~the~~ a priority order of ~~the set~~ of netspecs.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein associating further comprises:

looking up a corresponding location identifier for the first netspec in a netspec database; and

associating the particular analyzed network interface with the location identified by the corresponding location identifier for the first netspec.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the network policies differ for different locations.